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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1.-20. (Canceled)
21. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a catalytically active mixture based on stable nitroxyl radicals, the method comprising selectively separating stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals from a reaction mixture by hydrophobic interaction to obtain a catalytically active mixture of stable nitroxyl radicals, wherein the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals are hydrophobic selectively adsorbed onto a solid adsorbent exhibiting hydrophobicity.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the reaction mixture is a liquid solution.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein the adsorbent comprises a hydrophobic synthetic resin.
25. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 24, wherein the hydrophobic synthetic resin is ~~XAD-2, XAD-4, XAD-8, XAD-11, XAD-16, XAD-30, or XAD-1180~~ a polystyrene resin or a polyacrylic resin.
26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~23~~ 21, further comprising eluting the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals with a solvent, wherein the solvent comprises water, an organic solvent, or a mixture thereof.
27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the organic solvent comprises ethyl alcohol, acetone, or THF, or a mixture thereof.

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28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the organic solvent is miscible with water.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 28, wherein the organic solvent exhibits a high vapour pressure which is high in comparison with the vapour pressure of water.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 26, wherein the organic solvent comprises 1-pentanol.

31. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 21, ~~further comprising selectively absorbing the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals onto~~ wherein the solid adsorbent is a silica gel.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 31, further comprising eluting the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals with a solvent, wherein the solvent comprises water, an organic solvent, or a mixture thereof.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the organic solvent comprises ethyl alcohol, acetone, THF, or a mixture thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the organic solvent is miscible with water.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 34, wherein the organic solvent exhibits a high vapour pressure which is high in comparison with the vapour pressure of water.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 32, wherein the organic solvent comprises 1-pentanol.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein the hydrophobic interaction takes place in a precipitation step wherein β -cyclodextrin

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dissolved in water selectively forms complexes with the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals.

38. (Currently amended) The A method for recovery of stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals of Claim 21, further comprising:

dissolving β -cyclodextrin in the a reaction mixture comprising stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals, and

selectively forming complexes from the β -cyclodextrin with the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals, thereby obtaining a precipitate.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the hydrophobic interaction takes place in a liquid-liquid extraction, the method further comprising:

adding an organic solvent to the reaction mixture, and
transferring the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals into the organic solvent.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the organic solvent comprises a C₆ or higher alcohol.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein the organic solvent comprises 1-octanol.

42. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 41, further comprising selectively oxidizing primary alcohols with the reaction mixture including stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals.

43. (Previously Presented) A method for continuously recirculating stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radicals, comprising performing the method of Claim 21 in a continuous manner.

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44. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the stable hydrophobic nitroxyl radical is 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-1-oxyl (TEMPO).

45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21, wherein the reaction mixture comprises an aqueous solution or an aqueous suspension.